

Catharine Coryton House
522-24 King Street
Alexandria
Virginia

HABS No. VA-686

HABS
VA
7-ALEX,
150-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

CATHARINE CORYTON HOUSE

HABS
VA
7-ALEX,
150-

Location: 522-24 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia

Present Owner: Demolished after 1969 by the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority as part of an urban renewal project in the old commercial center of Alexandria.

Statement of Significance: Owned by a sister of merchant Adam Lynn, Jr., the building is a slightly abbreviated version of the adjoining Adam Lynn House at 518-20 King Street (see HABS report VA-676). It is one of four buildings on this block owned by or associated with Adam Lynn, Jr. (see also HABS reports VA-687 and VA-688).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: circa 1811

Adam Lynn, Sr., left to his daughter Catharine, who married Josiah Coryton, the lot of ground which was to become the site of 522-24 King Street. A deed of January 6, 1801, in which Josiah Coryton conveyed this lot to Adam Lynn, Jr., in trust for Josiah's wife and two children, related that Coryton had erected a two-story frame dwelling on the lot. Although Adam Lynn, Jr., never owned the property, he probably supervised the design and erection of the building on it at the same time he was building his house on the lot to the east. The facade of 522-24 King Street matches that of 518-20 King Street, except that the former frontage is 24 feet and that of the latter is 34 feet. On December 31, 1811, Catharine Lynn Coryton executed a deed of trust on the property in favor of Daniel McLean, "who has agreed to issue notes for an amount not to exceed \$1,500 to be made payable to Adam Lynn." It is possible that this money was needed to pay for the construction of 522-24 King Street.

2. Architect: Unknown

3. Original and subsequent owners: This property remained in the Coryton family for many years. A deed of January 28, 1880, describes it as "one of the parcels of realty of which Catharine Coryton died seized."

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

This building shares the same history of Adam Lynn, Jr. that is detailed in the HABS report on the Adam Lynn House (VA-676).

C. Bibliography:

See sources in the HABS report on the Adam Lynn House (VA-676).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Except for the absence of one bay, the building is a virtual mirror of the Adam Lynn House (see HABS report VA-676), which adjoins it to the east.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Three stories, three bays.
2. Chimneys: Two interior end chimneys, one on each side of ridge of roof.
3. Openings: The entrance to the upper floors is in the eastern bay and retains its fanlight with petal-shaped tracery. The storefront was altered in the twentieth century.
4. Roof: Gable roof.

Prepared by Mrs. Hugh B. Cox of
The Historic Alexandria
Foundation
October 1968
Edited by
Antoinette J. Lee
November 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken in 1968 to document the commercial and residential buildings in downtown Alexandria which were to be demolished in an urban renewal project. The project was cosponsored by the Historic Alexandria Foundation and the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mrs. Hugh B. Cox was the historian and George Eisenman supplied the photographs. The material was edited and updated in 1975 by Antoinette J. Lee, working on contract for HABS.